

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TUNIS 05704 170846Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
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/132 W

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R 150904Z AUG 70
FM AMEMBASSY TUNIS
TORUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 2132
INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY RABAT
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
AMEMBASSY VALLETTA

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E.O. 11692: N/A
TAGS: PLOS, ENRG, TS, LY
SUBJ: SUBMISSION OF TUNISIAN-LIBYAN OFF-SHORE BOUNDARY TO
INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE

REF: TUNIS 1503, TUNIS 4962 (NOTAL)

1. PRESIDENT AMOR ROUROU OF TUNISIAN STATE PETRO-
LEUM COMPANY (ETAP) TOLD E/C COUNSELOR AUGUST 14 THAT
TUNISIAN AND LIBYAN REPRESENTATIVES WILL, WITHIN NEXT
SIX WEEKS, JOINTLY DEPOSIT IN THE HAGUE THEIR AGREED
REQUEST ("COMPROMIS") FOR DETAILED GUIDANCE OF INTER-
NATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE ON DELINEATION OF OFFSHORE
BOUNDARY IN GULF OF GABES.

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2. ASKED WHY GOT HAD FAILED TO INITIATE ICJ ACTION
UNILATERALLY, AS IT WAS PRIVILEGED TO DO SINCE
FEBRUARY EXCHANGE OF INSTRUMENTS OF RATIFICATION OF
AGREEMENT, ROUROU SAID JOINT ACTION WAS DEEMED WORTH
WAITING FOR TO SHOW AND FORTIFY MUTUAL COMMITMENT.
ROUROU ACKNOWLEDGED THAT LIBYANS AND TUNISIANS HAD

NOT BEEN ABLE TO COME UP WITH AGREED FRENCH OR ENGLISH TEXT FOR THE COURT. HOWEVER, HE SAID, THIS WAS NO SERIOUS PROBLEM SINCE THEY WOULD ASK THE COURT ITSELF TO UNDERTAKE THE TRANSLATION.

3. ROUROU SAID HE HIMSELF HEADS GROUP WORKING ON ICJ SUBMISSION, WHICH ALSO INCLUDES FORMER DEAN OF TUNIS LAW FACULTY SADOK BELAID AND AMBASSADOR SLIM BENGHAZI WHO AS NEWLY-NAMED AMBASSADOR TO THE NETHERLANDS (TUNIS 4962) WOULD ACT AS TUNISIA'S AGENT WITH ICJ. GOT'S OUTSIDE COUNSEL CONTINUE TO BE PROFESSORS JENNINGS OF THE UK AND DUPUY OF FRANCE.

4. COMMENT: ROUROU'S FIRM PREDICATION OF TUNISIAN-LIBYAN DEMARCHE BY END OF SEPTEMBER IS MORE OPTIMISTIC THAN REPORTS FROM OTHER SOURCES HOWEVER, GIVEN HIS KEY ROLE IN MATTER, IT DESERVES CREDENCE. MULCAHY

NOTE BY OC/T: MESSAGE DELAYED IN TRANSMISSION.

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NNN

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

Message Attributes

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TAGS: ENRG, PLOS, LY, TS
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